

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 183
By Cohen

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Miss Cordelia of
Memphis.

WHEREAS, many thousands of Memphians, as well as the members of this General Assembly, were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Miss Cordelia Jones Turley on March 26, 2005; and

WHEREAS, a longtime resident of Memphis, Cordelia Jones Turley was a special lady, "a Southern lady," and "the definition of a steel magnolia," as Reverend Dr. Scott Morris so appropriately eulogized; and

WHEREAS, Miss Cordelia was a native Memphian when she met her husband, Henry Turley; she remained in Memphis, mostly on Harbert Avenue and in Midtown, the rest of her long and graceful life; and

WHEREAS, blessed with two loving sons, Henry Jr., a much admired and successful developer and civic leader, and Calvin, who followed in his father's footsteps in the cotton industry and is a Midtown booster and drummer, Mr. and Mrs. Turley were the very epitome of good neighbors and citizens, as they always endeavored to treat others as they would have liked to be treated and were always ready with a smile and pleasant greeting; and

WHEREAS, while in her eighties, she began keeping regular working hours at Miss Cordelia's, the popular and unique market in Harbor Town that her son Henry Turley, Jr. named in her honor; and

WHEREAS, having developed many special relationships as the store's greeter, Miss Cordelia was well known for her strong faith, her charming sense of humor, her cheerful outlook, and her ever-present smile; and

WHEREAS, she was an active member of St. John's Methodist Church for some eighty notable years and was renowned for her ability to handle any situation with uncommon poise; as Reverend Frank McRae rightly expressed, "She was grace personified," especially applicable when Miss Cordelia was explaining her frank-spoken, dear sister, Martha Jones; and

WHEREAS, a true Southern lady of singular distinction, Miss Cordelia shall always be a part of the cherished memories of those who patronized Miss Cordelia's, as well as the old Seesels on Union, and will also remain part of the dearest memories of those who were fortunate enough to know her; and

WHEREAS, Miss Cordelia was also deeply devoted to and inspired by her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order as a dedicated wife, mother, and sister; and

WHEREAS, preceded in death by her dear and respected husband, Miss Cordelia is survived by her two sons, three beloved grandchildren, a wonderful daughter-in-law, and several former daughters-in-law; and

WHEREAS, Miss Cordelia leaves behind a legacy of goodness, compassion, friendliness, loyalty, and all things good in the tradition of Midtown Southern ladies; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the extra special life of this beautiful lady; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Cordelia Jones Turley, devoted family woman, friend, and neighbor, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character, her beautiful soul, and her life of dedication and service to her family, church, and community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Miss Cordelia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.